

US statement concerning the
accidental attack on the
hospital.

31 October 1983

On the 25th, U.S. forces occupying the Governor General's residence, took fire from the Fort Fredericks area. They called in a air strike to suppress this fire, not knowing that there was a hospital in the complex.

The air strike silenced the fire; however, these forces did not occupy the position. On October 26th, U.S. Marines occupied Fort Fredericks.

In the time between the air strike and the time U.S. forces occupied the position, the hospital personnel had buried the dead and moved all other patients to a house in Georgetown.

The Marines did not know a hospital had been hit and, since they encountered no resistance from the hospital site, did not visit the site.

CINCLANT learned from ham radio reports, picked up by the U.S. Embassy in Barbados, that a hospital may have been hit. These reports reached CINCLANT at approximately 6 p.m. Sunday. CINCLANT launched an immediate investigation of the reports.

The results of that investigation are outlined above.

The director of the hospital, Dr. Clement Gabrial, has reported the following information to our forces:

-- 12 bodies were recovered from the hospital and buried by hospital personnel on October 25th. He expects to find "4 or 5 more."

-- At the time of the air strike, Grenadan troops of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA) were in the building firing at our forces.

-- The PRA had armed both patients and staff and posted them in the vicinity of the building to resist our forces.

-- The PRA had raised a flag in front of the building to serve as a rallying point for their forces.

The building was not marked in any way to indicate that it was a hospital.

The air strike was conducted by a single A-7 aircraft from the USS INDEPENDENCE. The pilot reported receiving fire from the complex.